

October

Magic Lantern Society
US and Canada

NEWS 2016



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

*Time For A Seasonal Song Slide Set
Sing along while clicking through slides!*

It has been noted
that this issue could
be haunted with
Phantasmagoria
spirits

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Oregon Historical Society Research Library

<http://ohsresearchlibrary.tumblr.com/>

A site rich in images of hand colored lantern slides



<http://ohsresearchlibrary.tumblr.com/page/15>



Scary Slides Past and Present

Phantasmagoria was a form of horror theatre which used one or more magic lanterns to project frightening images such as skeletons, demons, and ghosts onto walls, smoke, or semi-transparent screens, frequently using rear projection.



Click on this first part of a scary dissolve set
New Slide Revenge of the Rat

The original scary rat catcher

Click on image multiple times to view revenge of the rat

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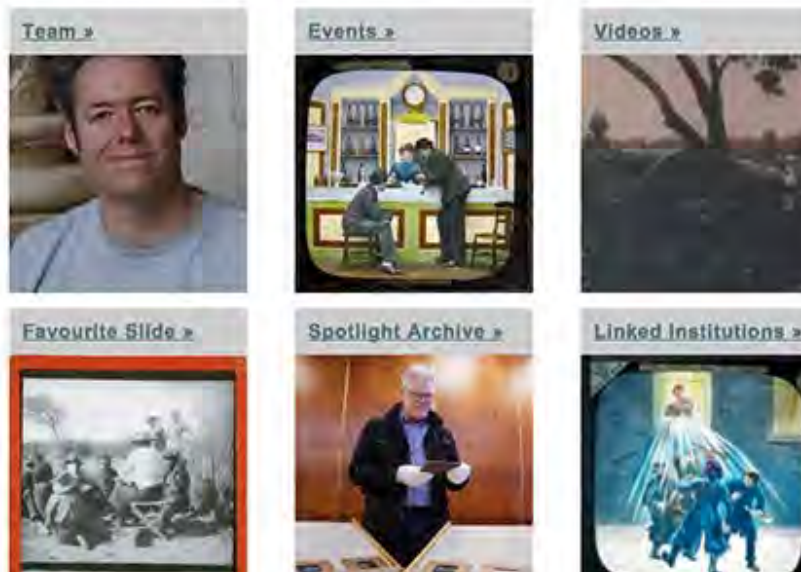
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Heritage in the Limelight: the magic lantern in Australia and the world



'In the Hurry-Burry: Limelight Effects in Melbourne', Melbourne War Cry, 28 July 1894, 9

ARC Discovery Project Overview



Heritage in the Limelight: The Magic Lantern in Australia and the World

A site worth exploring

<http://soa.anu.edu.au/heritage-limelight>

ARC Discovery Project Overview

The spectacular outdoor projections that are currently redefining our urban space have a long heritage in Australia. For instance, for over a century Australia's visual culture was profoundly shaped by the technology of magic lantern slide projection. From the 1840s to the 1930s this technology permeated theatres, lecture halls, church services, private homes and even open public spaces. It crossed from popular entertainment venues to elite educational institutions, and evolved from beautifully hand-painted slides to high-quality photographic reproductions. Some aspects of the technology were uniquely Australian, while other aspects were closely plugged into global networks of image trade and cultural exchange. Lantern slide performances produced complex multimedia, multi-sensory experiences for their audiences which can now historically inform our understanding of the collective experience of contemporary new media technologies. As well, they left behind large collections of glass slides in a wide variety of institutions large and small. Although neglected until now because they do not fit easily into traditional museum and gallery taxonomies, these slides have the potential to provide an exciting new archival resource for historians, curators and artists. Our Australian Research Council Discovery Project DP160102509) investigates the variety of contexts in which lantern slides were shown and the breadth of the stories told through this media.

continued next page

Archive in the Spotlight

**From David Donaldson
Adelaide, South Australia**

The Malle (sic) Scrub series

Lead CI, Martyn Jolly travelled to the State Library of Victoria to examine The Malle (sic) Scrub, a true story of three children who were lost in the Australian bush series with Research Librarian, Susan Long.

Few stories gripped the popular colonial imagination more than that of the 'Duff Children', Jane and Isaac Cooper and their younger brother Frank Duff, who got themselves lost in the Victorian bush in 1864. After nine days they were rescued on the brink of death when Aboriginal trackers led search parties to them. Besides being widely reported in the press, their miraculous rescue was also illustrated by S T Gill, Nicholas Chevalier, Samuel Calvert, and William Strutt. Their survival led to the erection of plaques and monuments, and also spawned stories that persisted well into the twentieth, and even the twenty-first, centuries. One version, Lost in the Bush, was read by every child in Victorian public schools between the 1930s and 1960s; in 1973 a film of the incident was made; and in 2006 the photographer Polixeni Papapetrou based a photograph from her series Haunted Country on their plight. But perhaps the most ambiguous example of this popular re-imagining is a set of twenty-four magic



lantern slides, The Malle (sic) Scrub, a true story of three children who were lost in the Australian bush, illustrated by Life Models, made by Bamforth & Co in the UK sometime after 1887.

more at:

<http://soa.anu.edu.au/heritage-limelight/spotlight-archive>

Thomas Baines' (incomplete) exploratory series

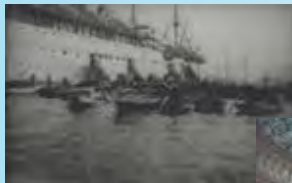
The Project's Research Fellow, Elisa deCourcy spoke with Nat Williams, Treasures Curator at the National Library of Australia about a curiously incomplete collection of lantern slides created by the British artist and explorer (John) Thomas Baines. The glass lantern slides, hand-coloured photographic copies and adaptations of Baines's paintings, have been mounted in thick wooden frames.



Lantern Slide Collection



Egypt



Hawaii



This collection is from my great grandfather, whom toured the World during the late 1890's to around 1920 with the Army Corp of Engineers, hence the period these slides were taken, and in American format 3.25 x 4". Both colored and B/W, subject matter includes people as well buildings, and many of the slides have writing as to the actual place.

I would be interested in entertaining any and all offers for the collection

Contents as organized and as marked in the wooden crate, which holds all of the slides:

1. India, Etc. - 51 slides
2. Europe - 61 slides
3. Philippines - 3 slides
4. Japan, Etc. - 17 slides
5. Egypt - 6 slides
6. Palestine - 23 slides

161 total slides in the collection.

Let me know if you need anything else

Thanks

Bob
rshedstrom@yahoo.com

India



From David Evans

Hi Bob

It does look to be an historic archive. - thanks for the images. We can add at least some of them to our E-Pub as I mentioned, and will hope for the best. I see you are located at Northbrook, Illinois.

Regards

David



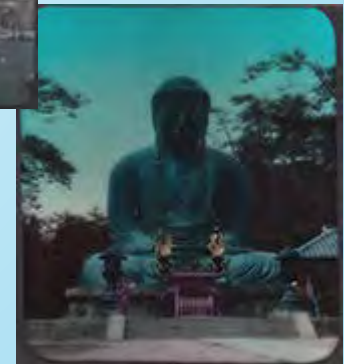
USA



Palestine



Japan





From Lisa Dunseth
lisa.dunseth@sfpl.org

We have over 37 small boxes of glass lantern slides (which are very heavy!) containing approximately 7,000 slides.

We believe they were once part of the slide library at the Legion of Honor art museum (Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (CA.) Most are clearly marked "Property of the California Palace of the Legion of Honor." Most of them feature the broad, general art history subjects of painting, sculpture, and architecture. Other subjects include: primitive art, costumes, advertising art, architecture of the world, motion pictures, furniture, graphic arts, and WWII looted art (which gives us a bit of a date-stamp.) They are mostly in good condition as far as I can tell. Transporting them could be a challenge however, as they are both heavy and fragile.

The Legion of Honor Museum does not want them.

Glass Lantern Slides

We'd like to find a home for them. Is there a chance you might be interested?
Or, if you have any ideas about what to do with them, that would be appreciated.

We have discussed listing them on a slide library listserv and reaching out to local art schools to see if there is any interest in making art projects out of them. Last resort is a recycled-art center, a nonprofit that sells arts and crafts materials to people.

Thank you so much for your interest and comments.

Sincerely,
Lisa

From David Evans

Dear Lisa

With an archive like that it would be ideal to keep the collection together if possible. I think the library listserv would be worth trying. There is also a museum listserv that you could perhaps put them on. It would be great if whoever finishes up with them could catalogue them for future generations and perhaps even scan them eventually. If you have no luck we could put them on our monthly E-Publication, which goes to all our members, including some museums and learning institutions. I think a collection that size might be a bit heavy (in all senses) for most private collectors, but you never know.

Good luck with the project.

Regards

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

From Robert

rdmanwaring@optusnet.com.au

Good Afternoon

Could you please advise is there any way of extracting an image (photograph) from a magic lantern slide

Regards

Robert

Slide on Scanner

Light source above going thru slide

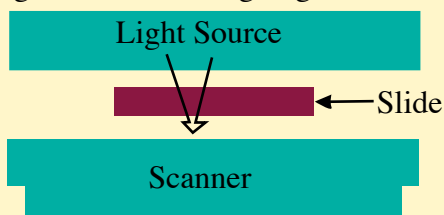
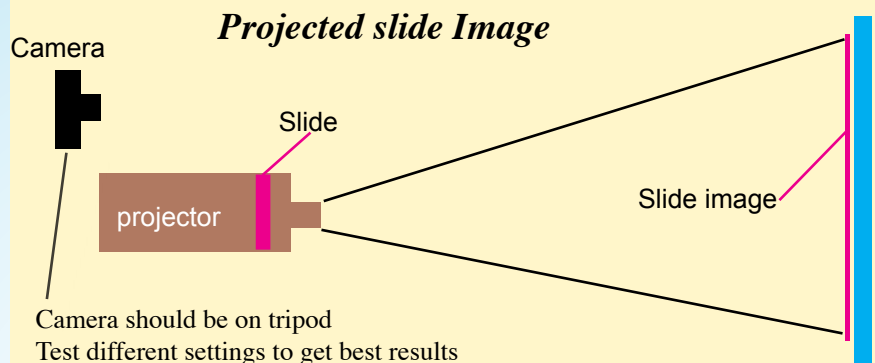
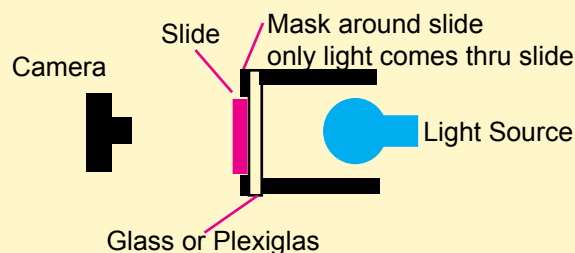


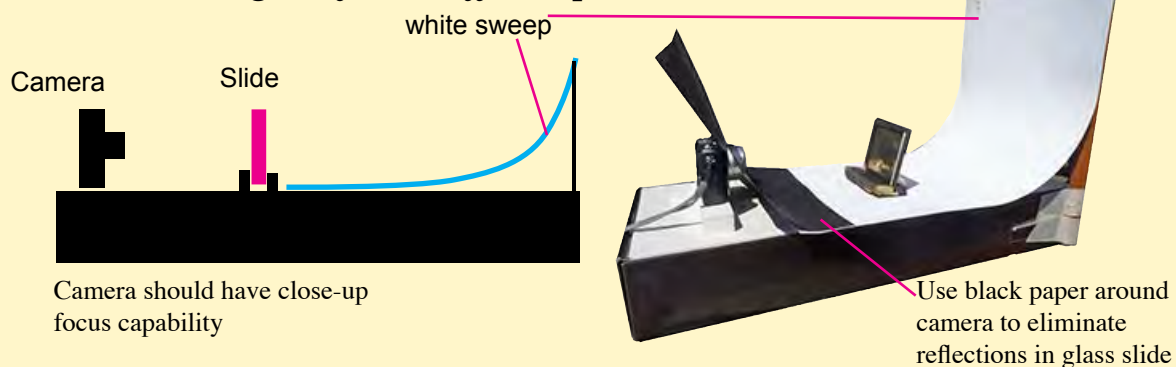
Image Capture of Lantern Slide



Slide on Lightbox



Slide shot with light reflected off sweep



From David Evans

Dear Robert

Basically there are several ways. Put it on a light box (or a window) and photograph it, or, rather better, scan it using a transparency scanner. Many of the better scanners have a transparency mode and illumination in the hood as well as underneath and can do a fine job.

I hope that may help, and thank you for contacting us.

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of
US & Canada

A Layman's Sermon: Jacob A. Riis on How the Other Half Lives & Dies in NY

From Tom Rall

I can report I watched it run twice in its two-bench with standing room theater yesterday. About a dozen people saw it in the fifth of an hour I was there. So, 60 viewers an hour X 7 hours/day X 6 days a week X 6 weeks = pretty good exposure!

From Terry Borton

On another subject, I have been working on a large project, a virtual Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows. It is set up in three levels, a 5 min into to the ML, a 10 min tour of Am ML Shows, and a 30 minute tour, and is designed for college students and the general public, with scholarly references. I had hoped to have it done several months ago, but life intervened, and now I'm not sure I'll be finished by the Convention.

Best,
Terry



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLgiWlwewdeHk7kvHeT1MM5N6cnqOmdr0T&v=K3NwFB9zuF8>



Philadelphia Lantern Slide Salon

Thursday, October 13, 2016, 6 to 8 pm
by Wagner Free Institute of Science



Celebrate Archives Month Philly at the Wagner Free Institute of Science as we showcase glass lantern slides from the special collections of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, Fairmount Park Archives, Jefferson University, Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Temple University, and the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries during the 4th annual Philadelphia Lantern Slide Salon.

In the spirit of lantern exhibition culture, this salon will bring together unique and rarely-seen images presented in the context for which they were originally created. Join us as we tour America's first zoo and the period rooms

at the Philadelphia Museum of Art; learn about industry and manufacturing in the Philadelphia area and Florence Nightingale and the history of nursing; travel to exotic lands and through the trees of Fairmount Park.

Predating the motion picture, lantern slides were used for entertainment and to illustrate educational programs. The Philadelphia Lantern Slide Salon will be held in the Wagner's Victorian-era lecture hall using an historic lantern projector. Please join us for a rare treat as we revive an old technology in order to see culturally significant lantern slide collections from the libraries and archives of Philadelphia's most distinguished institutions.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-philadelphia-lantern-slide-salon-registration-27583432790?aff=erexlpxmlt>



Magic Lantern 4x5 Adapter

From Craig Scull

cscull@adobe.com

Hi,

Would I be able to use (or adapt) a magic lantern projector to display 4x5 transparencies?

I seem to recall reading somewhere that a 4x5 adapter was available for showing slide taken in this larger format.

thanks!

--craig

From David Evans

Hi Craig

I assume you are thinking in inches rather than centimetres. Most regular magic lanterns have a condenser lens that is 4 inches in diameter. Images would have to be within that area to project in their entirety. Most slides are basically 3.5" x 4", but the image part of the slide is less than 4" across the diagonal. 4 x 5 inches would be too large to fit within the condenser area, unless you can find an unusually large lantern. I would suggest an epidiascope for your purpose.

Thanks for contacting us.

David Evans

Secretary-Treasurer,

Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

From: Cindy McCloe

cindymccloe@cox.net

Hi I'm so happy to have found your organization, as I recently received from a friend an old case of what I thought were some type of negatives, but upon researching have discovered are lantern slides. They belonged to her Uncle whose hobby was photography, but he would not have been old enough to have taken the photos in the slides. Most of them are from the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 or of San Francisco and the surrounding area prior to the earthquake. The rest are scenery of areas in Vermont. A few appear to be personal slides and not a series (i.e. Uncle Eri Hill's farm) One is labeled "Flood of 2-15-1900 State Street", which my research shows happened in Montpelier, VT, and shows a large building on a flooded street. There are 2 landscape slides that are in color. Some of the San Francisco slides have pre-printed labels that say "William H. Rau, Photographer" and "Philadelphia, Penna". Other labels say "T.H. McAllister, Manufacturing Optician" and "49 Nassau Street, New York" There are hand written labels on each slide with some identifying/descriptive information. From what I've learned, I assume that the San Francisco disaster slides were purchased as a series, but I haven't been able to find any history or information on that series. There are also a couple of slides that might be self portraits of the photographer, but they're not labeled with any identifying information (online photos I found of William H Rau don't seem to match) Are you familiar with any of these lantern slides? Some of the ones from the San Francisco disaster



Box of Lantern Slides

are incredible, especially the ones showing the City in flames, the disaster relief stations and the amazing City Hall building before & after the quake. My Grandfather was born in San Francisco in 1905. He and his family were fortunate to survive. The slides show what they may have experienced in the days afterwards. Do the slides have any monetary value? Should I have them appraised? Is there anyone here in Arizona I could take them to? Are they OK to keep in the case that seems to be designed specifically to hold them or should they be preserved somehow? I want to make sure they're preserved. Can prints be made from the slides? Anything other information you could give or you think I might need? Thank you in advance for your help!

From David Evans

Hi Cindy

Thank you for contacting us. An exciting find! McAllister were large suppliers of lanterns and slides. The firm was started by Thomas Hamilton McAllister in New York in 1866, after he had experience with the family firm of John McAllister & Co, opticians and dealers in Philosophical Instruments, located in Chestnut Street, Philadelphia from the late 18th Century. T H McAllister issued a 136-page catalogue of lanterns and slides in the 1880s and separate catalogues of other optical devices as well. In 1867 the Philadelphia firm traded

as W Y McAllister (Thomas's brother) until he sold out to his foreman, Charles Milligan, who continued in the lantern business until around 1900. The New York firm continued offering lantern slides and photographic supplies until 1942. William H Rau was a slide manufacturer and retailer in the 1890s-1900s, also in Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, though whether he had connections with McAllister or was a rival is not known at present. Rau also offered many thousands of slides in his catalogues.

I have no doubt that the San Francisco slides especially would have a monetary value. We can add your letter to our monthly E-Publication, which goes to all members, and it may well be that someone has knowledge of this slide set, and possibly the others too. We do have members who spend the winter months in Arizona and may well be able to help you with appraisals.

Yes, do keep them in the case, but away from damp and keep at a moderate temperature.

The easiest way to obtain prints from them is to scan them with a transparency scanner and print on photo quality paper, or store digitally etc as you find appropriate. That way you can easily enlarge the images etc.

Good luck with them!

Thank you for contacting the Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada.

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer,
MLS of US & C

A Big Thank You to the following:

David Donaldson
Lisa Dunseth
David Evans
Bob Hedstrom
Cindy McCloe
Tom Rall
Tim Shinnors

for contributing to this months issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?
If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

E-mail Larry

Welcome New Members

Beth Ayers

Plano, Texas TX 75025

Interested in lanterns, slides and gives lantern shows. Wife of Mark Ayers.

They hope to attend the Convention.



Projector Wanted



**Looking
for a nice wood/brass
magic lantern at a
reasonable price...**

Contact:

Tim Shinnors
timshinnors@aol.com

*Do you know how
manny ghosts and
spirits were in this
issue?*

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

Six